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within ten days thereafter. Any vacancy on the ballot resulting from a candidate's failure to file a statement may be filled by the proper political committee, but not by using the name of such delinquent. Where a statement is filed but does not conform to the law, the steps for its enforcement are clearly laid down.

Any elector may by petition contest the right of a candidate to any nomination or office for which he has the right to vote. The petitioner must give bonds, in a sum fixed by the court, not exceeding \$2000, to pay costs and attorney's fees if he does not prevail. Such election contests are to be tried in circuit courts, where they are to take precedence over all other business on the court docket and be disposed of with all convenient dispatch. "The court shall always be deemed in session for the trial of such cases." If any candidate be found guilty of any corrupt or illegal practice, his nomination or election shall be set aside, and he shall not, during the term of such office, be elected or appointed to fill any office or position of trust under the laws of the State, nor of any municipality therein. Where the defendant is ousted from a nomination or election it is to be awarded to the person having the next highest vote, unless he is shown to be guilty of some act warranting like judgment against him, in which case the nomination or office is to be adjudged vacant and filled by a new election or by appointment as provided by law. In the case of a contested nomination or election of a senator or representative in the State legislature or the United States congress, the court shall certify its findings to the secretary of state for him to transmit to the presiding officer of the proper body. In the case of other offices the court is to certify its decision to the proper official or board, who shall issue certificates of nomination or election in accordance therewith.

LEON E. AYLSWORTH.

**Child Labor Law—District of Columbia.** At the first session of the sixtieth congress, the senate and house of representatives passed a law relating to the employment of children in the District of Columbia.

No child under fourteen years of age is to be employed or permitted to work in any factory, workshop, mercantile establishment, store, business office, telegraph or telephone office, restaurant, hotel, apartment house, club, theatre, bowling alley, laundry, bootblack stand, or in the distribution or transmission of merchandise or messages. No child under the age specified is to be employed in any work performed

for wages or other compensation during the hours when the public schools of the District of Columbia are in session, nor before the hour of six in the morning or after the hour of seven in the evening. Two exceptions are made to this rule; first, the provisions of this section are not to apply to children employed in the service of the senate, the second, the judge of the juvenile court of the District may issue a permit allowing the employment of any child between the ages of twelve and fourteen in any occupation or employment not, in his judgment, injurious to the child's health or morals. This permit can be issued by the judge only upon evidence satisfactory to him that the labor of the child in question is necessary for his own support or for the support of persons actually dependent upon him. These permits are to be issued for a definite time, but may be revoked at the discretion of the judge issuing them or by his successor in office.

Children under the age of sixteen are not to be employed in any of the establishments mentioned in the act unless the employer procures and keeps on file and accessible to the inspectors and truant officers, an age and schooling certificate and also two complete lists of all children employed in the establishment, one on file and one posted near the principal entrance of the building where the children are working. The age and schooling certificate must be approved by the superintendent of public schools or by another person authorized by him in writing. These officials cannot approve the certificate except upon satisfactory evidence furnished by duly attested transcript of the certificate of birth or baptism, or other religious record or the register of birth. If none of these records can be found the parent, guardian or custodian may make affidavit as to the age of the child before the officer issuing the employment certificate. In addition to this, provision is made for exceptional cases and the judge of the juvenile court may, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of public schools waive the necessity of a schooling certificate and permit the child to work without its being a violation of the law.

Persons employing children contrary to the provisions of this act are to be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$50 but if the offense continues after notice, a fine of \$20 per day is imposed. Failure to produce the age or schooling certificate is prima facie evidence of illegal employment. The certificate granted belongs to the child and it must be given to him whenever he leaves the service of the employer holding it; if not returned as required a fine of \$20 is levied.

The inspectors and the truant officers of the district must visit the establishments enumerated, see that the law is complied with and report all cases of illegal employment to the superintendent of public schools and the corporation council of the District of Columbia.

The law goes even beyond this and fixes the hours of labor for all children under sixteen, who are employed in the establishments covered by the act, at not more than eight hours in any one day or more than forty-eight hours in any one week or before the hour of six in the morning or after the hour of seven in the evening.

The commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized to appoint two inspectors to carry out the provisions of the act.

In addition to this, other occupations common to children are given some attention. No boy under ten and no girl under sixteen is to be allowed to exercise the trade of bootblacking or the selling of newspapers on the streets unless a permit and badge have already been issued to him or her by the superintendent of schools or his agent. The permit gives the date and place of birth of the child, the name of the parent or guardian and a description of the person in question; the badge bears a number corresponding to the number of the permit on its face and on the reverse side the signature of the child in his or her own handwriting.

The above account gives the main provisions of the law as passed by congress. The law is of importance in itself, but it is of much greater importance when we consider the fact that congress may pass a national child labor law, uniform in its operation throughout the United States. The District of Columbia law may be the model.

ROBERT ARGYLL CAMPBELL.

**The English Children's Bill.** The English children's bill is nearing the stages when it may be expected that it will soon become a law. In spite of much opposition and some ridicule the provisions concerning "juvenile smoking" remains substantially as proposed. The bill passed its second reading in the house of lords on October 28. It came to the report stage November 12, when the lord chancellor proposed to add a clause providing that a woman convicted of the murder of her infant child might at the discretion of the court be sentenced to some punishment less than death. This proposal was carried.

STANLEY K. HORNBECK.